

March 24, 1975

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you Senator Koch. Here's my wind-up comment. I say again that the more important is what should require the super majority. If you are dealing with very important issues you should require a super majority to make sure that important issue is being properly considered. Since Senator Koch says that the committee work is not as important as . . . thank you Senator Koch, you may be seated. Senator Koch is going to speak on his own time. If what we do in a committee is not as important as carrying on the work of a city, why require a super majority for that which is least important. I still don't understand it. On this bill I agree, as I've said already, with the arguments Senator Koch gave. A majority should be sufficient. When he said I should vote my own best conscience, he's saying already that I should vote for his bill cause he knows I'm for it. What I wanted from him and I didn't get is whether or not he personally wants me to vote for this bill, in spite of the fact that he doesn't care which way I go, I'm going to vote for it, but I hope that you will begin to put together statements that various ones of us make on crucial issues. I think this is a crucial issue. How much . . . or what portion of an elective body should be necessary to carry out various actions of that body.

PRESIDENT: Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: Mr. President, I want to ask Senator Koch a question. It says the majority of all members elected to a city council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business. Now when you get that quorum together, a majority of the board, a quorum, how many of that quorum does it take to pass a resolution or to act on the business of the city? Just a majority of the quorum, or a majority of the board elected?

SENATOR KOCH: If you read the amendment that was added to the proposal, Senator Keyes, you will find it says "except as otherwise provided by law". That would mean that when you have certain conditions in state statute then you would have to have a greater percentage than just a majority to carry on the business of the council.

SENATOR KEYES: In other words, our mayor of the town called the council together for a special meeting, and there were five members present and the vote went 2 and 1, they wouldn't be able to do that?

SENATOR KOCH: You'd still have to have a majority of those members present.

SENATOR KEYES: Oh, there was 5 members present.

SENATOR KOCH: If there are 5 members present it would take 3, as I understand.

SENATOR KEYES: I thought I understood it that way but they transacted business with just 2 and 1. I was wondering if this bill was going to take care of that.